YUKON COUNCIL ON THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TERM REPORT

October 1993 - March 1995

102-07063/

YUKON COUNCIL ON THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Yukon Government Executive Council Office
P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

July 13, 1995

The Honourable Mickey Fisher
Minister, Renewable Resources
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Fisher:

On behalf of the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment, I am pleased to provide you with the Council's Term Report for the period October 1993 to March 1995.

The report outlines the Council's activities and provides a financial statement and membership list.

Sincerely,

Tim Preston
Chair

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

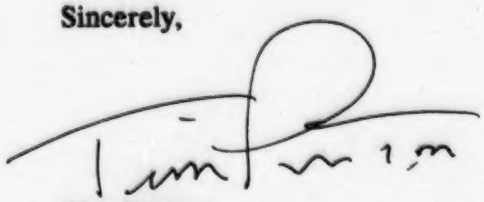
This report outlines the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment's activities over a 17 month period from the appointment of new members in Fall 1993 through to the sectoral conference planning in March 1995.

After an orientation period in late 1993, the Council undertook many activities to meet the statutory obligations outlined in legislation and worked on special projects at the request of the Yukon Government.

At an early stage, it became evident that one of the services that the Council is uniquely suited to perform was that of a conduit between the public and the Yukon Government. The Council encouraged Yukoners to make their views known on many matters addressed by Council and reviewed and considered the information received. Throughout the process, Council members ensured that the interests of their constituents were well represented.

The strength of the Council lies in each member's genuine desire to reach consensus and their willingness to understand the differing views expressed at the table. The conclusions and advice reached in this way, based on the views of Yukon people, will continue to be a defining feature of the Council's work in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Tim Preston
Chair, YCEE

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Mandate Review and Orientation Presentations

The first meeting of the newly appointed Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment, (YCEE) was spent considering the Council's jurisdiction as outlined in the *Environment Act* and the *Economic Development Act*.

The instructions received from the Government Leader to begin planning for an economic conference and to consider the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals and expanded casino gambling was discussed. To provide a foundation for the Council to proceed on the priority projects, it was determined that detailed information on the state of the Yukon's economy and environment would be useful.

The YCEE invited representatives from the following Yukon Government departments to make presentations on current programs and initiatives: Economic Development; Renewable Resources; Finance; and Tourism.

The YCEE operates primarily on the basis of consensus decision making. A member of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy made a presentation on the principles of consensus decision making.

Public Consultation on Expanded Gambling and Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) in the Yukon

In preparation for launching the public consultation process to determine Yukoners' views on expanded casino gambling and the introduction of VLTs, the Yukon Government's Inter-Departmental Committee on Gambling provided the Council with a presentation on background information gathered to date.

The Council initiated its consultation on VLTs and expanded casino gambling by encouraging the public to provide their views through written submissions. Council members also participated on an open-line CBC talk show to gain views from the public on VLTs and expanded casino gambling.

The public meetings to hear Yukoners' views on expanded gambling began in Whitehorse, followed by meetings in Dawson City, Faro, Watson Lake and Haines Junction.

Once the consultation phase of the Council's work was completed, the Council met to consider its report and recommendations to the Yukon Government. The Report was finalized and provided to the Government Leader in July 1994.

State of the Environment Report

Under the *Environment Act*, the YCEE is required to review the Yukon Government's State of the Environment Report. YCEE members received briefings on progress of the report preparation and will review and report on the document upon its completion in Fall 1995.

Yukon Industrial Support Policy (YISP)

The YCEE was asked to review and provide comments to the Department of Economic Development on a draft version of the YISP. The Department provided background information on the Policy and its intent and the Council provided the Department with suggestions for consideration.

Environment Act Review

The Government Leader requested that the Council undertake a review of a document entitled "Recommended Amendments to the *Environment Act*". The YCEE received briefings from the Department of Renewable Resources on the recommended amendments and the rationale for the changes within the overall context of the statute and program adminstration. Written submissions were requested from key stakeholder groups and Council members sought the views of their nominating organizations. The Council's report and recommendations were submitted to the Government Leader in February, 1995.

Sectoral Economic Conferences

The Government Leader requested that the YCEE undertake a Yukon economic conference in a way that provides Yukoners with the greatest opportunity to make their views known to the Council.

The YCEE considered various options to conduct an economic conference. The Council decided that a series of one day conferences that focus on a single economic sector would be the most effective approach to reviewing the Yukon economy. The conference reports will contain concrete recommendations that the Yukon Government can implement to increase the sector's contribution to the economy, within the overall context of achieving sustainable development.

The YCEE held its first sectoral conference on Mining in November 1994. The goal of the conference was to discuss long term solutions to remove barriers and enhance the mining sector's contribution to the economy while maintaining the Yukon's environmental integrity. The topics discussed at this meeting were determined through the Council's review of the submissions received from the public and industry stakeholders prior to the conference.

Council planning for the sectoral conference on Energy was well underway in March 1995, with more in the series to follow. Written submissions received by the Council were reviewed and conference agenda planning was being finalized.

Conferences will likely be planned for the Spring and Fall in the coming years.

YUKON COUNCIL ON THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1993/94 - 1994/95

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1993/94

FUNDS AVAILABLE		$30,000.00
EXPENSES		
Honoraria	$9,900.00	
Travel Expenses[1]	3,262.08	
Meeting Expenses	1,269.20	
Administrative Expenses	6,223.30	$20,654.58
BALANCE REMAINING AT MARCH 31, 1994		$ 9,345.42

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1994/95

FUNDS AVAILABLE		$30,000.00
EXPENSES		
Honoraria	$13,300.00	
Travel Expenses	8,850.76	
Meeting Expenses	4,855.04	
Administrative Expenses	0.00	$27,005.80
BALANCE REMAINING AT MARCH 31, 1995		$2,994.20

[1] Expenses totalling $1,660 were incurred in Spring 1993 and carried over from the previous Council's activities.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment
October 1993 - March 1995

Chair: Tim Preston

Vice Chair: Mary Reddoch

Members: Louise Bouvier, Yukon Indian Women's Association
Gregg Jilson, Yukon Chamber of Mines
Denny Kobayashi, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon/Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Victor Mitander, Council for Yukon Indians
Mark Timm, Yukon Federation of Labour (resigned Jan/95)
Kathy Watson, Association of Yukon Communities
Mark Wedge, Council for Yukon Indians
Andrew Williams, Yukon Conservation Society

Ex-Officio Members:

Minister of Economic Development

Hon. John Devries (Appointed Nov. 7/92)
Hon. John Ostashek (Appointed Feb. 24/94)
Hon. Mickey Fisher (Appointed Aug. 3/94)

Minister of Renewable Resources

Hon. Bill Brewster (Appointed Nov. 7/92)
Hon. Mickey Fisher (Appointed Aug. 3/94)

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